

**ADJOURNED COUNCIL MEETING & BUDGET SESSION
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 24, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH
MAYOR GRAHAM

ALSO PRESENT: MARY M. CORRIVEAU, CITY MANAGER
ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE

City Staff present: Ken Mix, Jim Mills, Kurt Hauk, Gene Hayes and Gary Pilon

Mayor Graham opened the adjourned session.

MAYOR GRAHAM ASKED THE CITY CLERK TO READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE 2010-11 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WATERTOWN.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.

No one spoke.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING CLOSED.

MAYOR GRAHAM ASKED THE CITY CLERK TO READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE 2010-11 THROUGH 2014-15 CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE CITY OF WATERTOWN.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.

No one spoke.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING CLOSED.
MAYOR GRAHAM ASKED THE CITY CLERK TO READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2010 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WATERTOWN TO MAKE APPLICATION TO AMEND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY AND TOWN OF WATERTOWN EMPIRE ZONE AS DESCRIBED IN LOCAL LAW NO. 14 OF 2005.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.

No one spoke.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING CLOSED.

R E S O L U T I O N

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, has before it a Local Law that will amend the boundaries of the Watertown Empire Zone, and

WHEREAS the City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS the proposed Amendment will constitute such an action, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that the proposed project is an “Unlisted Action” as that term is defined in 6NYCRR Section 617.2, and

WHEREAS to aid the City Council in its determination as to whether the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment, Part 1 of a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared by staff, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that:

1. Based upon its examination of the Environmental Assessment Form in comparison of the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, no significant impact on the environment is known and the Amendment to the Watertown Empire Zone Boundaries will not have a significant negative impact on the environment.
2. The Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute the Environmental Assessment Form to the affect that the City Council is issuing a negative declaration under SEQRA
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR. AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

LOCAL LAW

LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2010 WAS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL(Introduced to Council on May 10, 2010; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety on page 88 of the 2010 Minutes Book)

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING LOCAL LAW AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Printing of Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Referring to Mr. Pilon's report, Council Member Burns remarked that the requirement to send these out to everyone in the City was probably made years ago. Times have changed and with these changing times, methods have changed. She suggested that we still should investigate the possibility of the website posting being enough to meet the requirements.

Mr. Pilon explained that the City is required, under law, to mail the report to all bill paying customers and non-bill paying customers in the City.

Council Member Butler suggested petitioning the state officials since this is only a waste of money.

Mr. Pilon advised that it isn't just a state law, it is also federal under the EPA.

Mayor Graham remarked that the City should notify NYCOM, the State Health Department and EPA, as well as sending copies of the letter to the elected officials. He also remarked that what public health law specifically says versus how bureaucratic interpret it is quite often different.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that the mailings are being done because that is what the law says to do.

USDA Grant

Council reviewed the memo indicating that the City has been invited to submit a final application in the amount of \$15,100.

Council concurred to apply. They indicated that a final decision can be made later.

Cleanup after Concert at the Arena

Mayor Graham commented that he had been informed that city crews had been at the arena cleaning up public urination after the recent concert. He said that if this is the case, an analysis needs to be done on the restroom facilities at the arena as this is totally unacceptable. He

remarked that it is another case of city taxpayers assuming the overhead and another organization reaping the profit.

For continuity purposes, the following is the budget session which began at 6:15 p.m., adjourned at 7 p.m. for the regular meeting and then continued in regular session until adjournment at 10 p.m.

BUDGET SESSION

Mayor Graham opened the budget session at 6:15 p.m.

Revenues

Council reviewed revenue information on pages 5 – 18.

The City Clerk discussed her proposal for raising vital records fees. After discussion, Council agreed that vital records fees would be \$20 a copy for the first 2 per individual and \$10 for each additional copy. With each order, the \$20 fee for the first 2 would apply. As this will require home rule legislation, the City will contact our state representatives to see if they would be willing to sponsor the legislation.

Bus advertising was discussed. Council Member Butler suggested that the fees for this advertising should be on the website as well as on the buses.

Discussion was held on the sale of surplus as well as the rental fees received from the Watertown Golf Course, Watertown Family YMCA, rental of office space to the Watertown Wizards, the City's health insurance administrator and water and sewer administration at City Hall.

Council Member Burns referred to the sales tax number in the budget and remarked that she felt it was too conservative.

Mayor Graham agreed stating that he would like to see the number raised to \$15,500,000.

After discussion, the majority of the Council agreed to a figure of \$15,300,000.

False Alarm Report

Council reviewed the report concerning the false alarms for the Fire Department.

Council Member Butler remarked that he would like to revisit assessing fees to the users.

Mrs. Corriveau suggested that this could be a longer discussion at a work session.

Arena Roof

Council reviewed the updated report from Bernier Carr & Associates which indicates that the roof could be replaced in a later year.

Council Member Butler asked why the difference in the \$90,000 and \$125,000 recoating estimate.

Mr. Hayes explained that we don't know the whole scope of the roof repairs. In 2001, the resurfacing was estimated at \$117,000.

Council Member Burns commented that the arena and the roof have dominated the budget discussions. She requested that the \$125,000 be removed from the capital budget this year due to all of the questions that Council has concerning it. Once answers are obtained, the roof could be put in next year's budget. She remarked that the concession is more of an immediate concern than the roof and these funds could be used for that. She requested that a thorough plan be drawn up on how to move forward next year. She also indicated that the plan could be done in-house.

Council Member Butler suggested recoating the roof at \$90,000 and using the remaining funds to make improvements in the concession.

Council Member Smith expressed his concern with the various priorities that had been listed in the original Bernier Carr report versus what is in the current report. He questioned which one to pick.

Mr. Hayes responded that we pick the one we can afford. He also explained that there has not been an increase in leaks over the past few years.

Mayor Graham and Council Member Burns agreed with Council Member Butler's suggestion.

Thermometers along Black River

Mr. Hauk advised Council that more thermometers were found along the Black River by the fairgrounds. He has met with DEC. The thermometers have mercury in them. DEC will do testing on the area. He advised that they have applied for a grant of \$99,000 through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The City's match would be \$26,000 which would be done with in-kind services. This issue does not change the proposed budget. He explained that the thermometers are right along the fence line. The City would construct an 80 linear foot retaining wall at the City's property.

Council Member Burns remarked that Council is being informed after the fact.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that they had four days to act on the grant application. She explained that it was on the list for discussion at the last meeting. However, there was not enough time left after budget discussions.

Council Member Burns remarked that it would have been nice if Council had an informational memo on this.

Mr. Hauk advised that this was discovered by individuals who filed complaints with the DEC. DEC advised the City to apply for the grant funds. He explained that if we don't put in a retaining wall, as more fill erodes, more thermometers will appear.

Council Member Smith commented that in-kind services are still costs incurred. Crews doing this could be working on other things.

Mayor Graham suggested that this be discussed at another time and if necessary, the capital budget could be amended if Council accepts the grant.

Tier 4 Water and Sewer Rates

The majority of the Council concurred to eliminate Tier 4 rates. Council was advised that the water rates are done by ordinance and the sewer rates are done by local law, which will require a public hearing.

Aviary

Mayor Graham advised that he had spoken with John Foster and there was a consensus to form a study group to come up with rearrangement, mission and function of the building.

Engineering Department

Council reviewed the budget pages for this department. Council was advised that a job description for temporary project inspectors is being developed.

Sewage Treatment and Disposal

Council reviewed these pages and was informed that one of the Industrial Pretreatment Laboratory Technicians had retired and Mr. Sligar had asked for an additional Process Worker I instead of replacing the lab tech.

Planning Department

Mr. Mix answered questioned posed by Council concerning the request for an additional planning position as well as grant training costs.

DPW

Council reviewed the department's budget.

Mr. Hayes answered questions concerning the painting and the brick work at Lachenaur Plaza. He also advised that the “2 college kids and a pickup” program will be running again this summer.

Removal of Brush in Thompson Park

Mr. Hayes explained that they are still grooming the area there.

Legislative Board and Mayor

Council Member Burns asked to add \$500 to each of these budgets for travel and training and to take the \$1,000 out of the City Manager’s travel and training budget.

Membership dues were discussed for these two budgets.

Council Member Butler asked to zero out the increase in the Mayor’s budget.

Mayor Graham responded that legislative salaries had been allowed to languish for years before they were addressed two years ago.

Council Member Burns proposed 1.5% for management, including the legislative board and mayor.

Council Member Butler responded that he realized staff deserves more than they are getting. However, in these economic times, people have expressed concern over staff receiving raises.

Mrs. Corriveau responded to Council that Council relies on management staff to do more with less and a zero increase sends a mixed message.

There was a consensus of three that the raise of 1.5% for management would be factored into the budget just to keep things moving along this evening. However, Council Member Butler and Council Member Macaluso commented that they would vote on an amendment to change that on the night of the budget vote.

Municipal Executive

Mayor Graham referred to the request for a Confidential Assistant to the City Manager. He commented that things seem to be getting done without one.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that she fell short on her reviews with Council because she didn’t have an assistant to take on some of the duties. She said that if this slot wasn’t filled, things would fall through the cracks.

Council Member Butler asked if Council wanted the City Manager preparing the agenda or did they hire her to run the City.

Council Member Burns responded that she could see hiring an additional person, either one in Planning or one in the City Manager's office.

Council Member Butler stated that his issue was that the \$50,000 salary was too high.

Mayor Graham suggested putting it at \$40,000 and keeping it in.

Street Light Contract

Council Member Butler asked about the accuracy of the numbers.

Mr. Mills explained that there are firms who will audit National Grid on the City's behalf. This was done about 5 years ago. There are some issues that need to be corrected on the City's end before this can be done again.

ADJOURNMENT

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS AT 10:00 PM. TO ADJOURN TO MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010 AT 6:45 PM., SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MACALUSO AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Donna M. Dutton
City Clerk